

GREAT MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
MONTHLY NARRATIVE: June 1993

A. HIGHLIGHTS

RM Moses and ORP Kennedy attended the opening ceremony of The Fells State Historic Site at John Hay NWR on June 5.

A Station Evaluation was conducted the week of June 7.

B. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Weather conditions this month were generally a continuation of those experienced in May. Temperatures were generally normal throughout June and precipitation amounts were again below normal. Only 1.80 inches of rain were recorded.

D. PLANNING

6. Other

ORP Kennedy attended a meeting of the John Hay Committee on June 24 at John Hay NWR.

E. ADMINISTRATION

1. Personnel

6/16 - ROS Frisque and Ware attended Visa card training in the R.O. ROS Ware was designated as a cardholder and Frisque was designated as the approving official.

6/7-11 - A station evaluation was conducted at GRM. Regional Office personnel, including Skutek, Comish, Cutler, Driscoll, and Refuges South biologist, Pelizza were in attendance during the week. Reviews of the majority of station programs was conducted. Reviews of some programs were conducted in May so these were not specifically evaluated this time. Verbal recommendations were made at the end of the session and a hard copy follow up will be coming.

6/29-30 - ROS Frisque attended TQM meeting in Freeport Maine. The meeting was designed to bring different Service offices together to discuss "watershed wide problems and ideas."

6/19-28 - ROS Frisque on annual lve.

4. Volunteer Program

ORP Kennedy met with Vol. Gerry Tolman on June 23 regarding a fundraising effort to acquire the aquatic weed harvester. Gerry will provide technical expertise on how to conduct a fundraising campaign.

6. Safety

Station review found few problems with safety program on the refuge. A means of securing large power tools such as table saws, and radial arm saw was discussed. The station needs to cut long and sometimes large sheets of lumber to construct entrance and informational signs. This situation requires occasional moving of "permanent" power tools. Suggestions were made and will be entertained.

F. HABITAT MANAGEMENT

2. Wetlands

G. WILDLIFE

2. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

3. Waterfowl

Waterfowl broods are prevalent in the impoundments and river floodplains. Wood duck broods are common on the refuge and indicate a good production year despite the April floods.

4. Marsh and Water Birds

Five of the seven great blue heron nests located on the Strand property have young in the nest. One nest contains five and the others all have 2 or 3 young.

A virginia rail with 5 young was observed on the Concord river.

6. Raptors

7. Other Migratory Birds

Bluebirds are fledging young in June.

10. Other Resident Species

Ruffed grouse and pheasant broods were observed in June along Water Row Rd. and at the Strand property.

H. PUBLIC USE

1. General

Four business meetings for a total of 50 people were held in the auditorium in June.

2. Outdoor Classrooms - Students

Students from the Tobin School in Boston visited on June 15. Patti Steinman of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum presented a program on the Endangered Species of Massachusetts. ORP Kennedy conducted a pond study activity. Refuge staff prepared a cookout for the students.

Eight school or scout groups, totalling 344 students and leaders, visited the refuge for outdoor classroom activities.

4. Interpretive Foot Trails

6. Interpretive Exhibits/Demonstrations

Interpretive materials and information highlighting fishing opportunities and River Awareness were provided to visitors throughout June in recognition of National Fishing Week (June 7) and Rivers Month (June)

7. Other Interpretive Programs

Rivers Night was co-sponsored with the SuAsCo Watershed Association on June 10. Speakers included John O'Leary of Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Bill Sullivan of the Scenic rivers Designation Study Committee, and RM Moses. Representatives of State Sen. Durand and US Rep. Meehan also attended. Forty-three people attended the event.

11. Wildlife Observation

A large snapping turtle was observed in the middle of the Weir Hill Visitor Center parking lot on the morning of June 1.

12. Other Wildlife Oriented Recreation

17. Law Enforcement

FI Kennedy provided firearms training and qualification to 5 law enforcement officers from Ninigret NWR and Minute Man NHP on June 16.

I. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

2. Rehabilitation

Two concrete extensions were installed over the existing septic tank access holes at the Concord restrooms. The 2 and 3 foot

extensions were required to bring the clean out access openings close to the surface. The handicapped access road to the restrooms was going to be placed over the septic tanks, necessitating the extensions to minimize the disturbance to the road during cleanout.

Maint. Mech. Sears, Bio. Tech. Burke, and ROS Frisque initiated installation of two bridges at the Concord unit. The bridge units spanned the two spillways at Concord affording mobility impaired and wheelchair bound visitors access to a portion of the Concord Unit. Recycled plastic materials were used to construct the bridge units, which were finished in July.

The access drive to the Concord restrooms was completed in June. A layer of filter fabric was installed and secured to the existing road area after minor site preparation was completed. A 6 inch layer of crusher run gravel topped with two inches of stone dust was applied over the filter fabric and hand compacted.

3. Major Maintenance

4. Equipment Utilization and Replacement